

Sela Aranea. 1824. ND9

18. C.

a good experimental essay, proving fully
the total inactivity of the cartilage - in intermit - &
in an aneurysm - in lapped bones - & in pubis

The ^{bad spelling}
Experimental inquiry
into

the Medicinal Powers

of
the *Sela Aranea*

by
George D. Murphy
of
South Carolina

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W. E. H.

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Experiments On The Solar Aranea,
There has been, for a considerable time past, a sort
of popular tone of confidence reposed in the Medic-
inal powers of the spider web. The question how-
ever not being decided in the minds of practitioners,
I thought it not less instructive than important
to endeavour, if possible, by some experiments to sa-
tisfy myself, in relation to this unsettled inquiry.

After perusing Dr Roberts Jackson's deta-
iled account of the cob-web, in which such high
eulogiums are lavished upon it, and which are
to a certain extent corroborated by the concurrent
testimony of some of the most experienced practition-
ers, I was not a little predisposed in favour of this
article, and disposed to consider it as a valuable
acquisition in the list of our remedial resources.

Very frequently hearing physicians speak of

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the difficulty they so often experience in the cure of Intermittent fever, by the ordinary modes of treatment recommended in that disease, I was not a little surprised, that they never resorted to the col. umb. since Dr Robert Jackson positively pronounces it as preventing the recurrence of the febrile paroxysms of Intermittent fever, more abruptly and more effectually than bark, arsenic, or any other remedy employed for that purpose. To me it appeared evident, that this neglect could not arise from any scarcity of the article, or difficulty in procuring it, since its very plentiful distribution, even within the precincts of the meanest cottages renders it accessible to every one who will take the pains to collect it. Nor yet from any disagreeable or deleterious effects arising from its use, since it is said to operate by producing feelings of delight and pleasure rather than pain and suffering.

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The hilarity and delightful state of feeling arising from the administration of this remedy, has even been associated by some with the sensations arising from a draught of the Nitrous oxide gas.

From this view of the article, it would appear to have a specific mode of action in the case of disease, peculiar to itself, and giving it a decided preference to most articles in the Materia Medica; as the *Modus Operandi* of most medicines, perhaps, I might make no exception, at least the primary effects produced, is a sense of nausea, sickness, or disorder, in some, according to the nature of the article administered, instead of animation and cheerfulness.

To satisfy myself as to the real merits of the Spincors-sub. I commenced my experiments in a system of health where the functions were unembarrassed by diseased associations, and

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subsequently by administering it in a system mor-
tally disturbed by diseased associations.

To guard against
any defect in the web I took the precaution to
select it myself. I procured a small quantity
which I considered, from the directions upon the
subject, to be the best. I collected in a dark
cellar, that which was the production of the black
glaze, and after forming it into pills, which
was effected with facility by adding to the mass
a little mucilage of Gum Arabic, I commenced
by taking three grains myself, waiting for near
fifty minutes without any perceptible alteration
in my pulse or state of feeling; I took five grains
more, and in a few minutes repeated the dose;
I had now taken thirteen grains, and not ob-
serving the slightest effect I at once began to
suspect that I had been deceived in procuring
the genuine species of the web.

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Getting rid of me a path way to me
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 all acquaintance with the last time. I had been
 in now requested him to prepare me some
 something, and he was assured me that he
 gave me the genuine one, which upon me was
 the appearance of the old, and I then, for
 as usual. I was now engaged in my own
 mind, that I was a superior one, and
 an effect from its steady stomach being empty,
 I took a glass which I put it very frequ-
 ently, until in the space of two hours I had
 taken more fully of wine. I was now
 perfectly satisfied that there was not to be a mistake,
 and my pulse is general feeling. We returned
 at once, and at a little distance. I began
 in the last time very strongly to suspect the truth
 and presence of the world, and I was for some time
 of presence in a state of a state of



any other, as well as the state and different in spirit
 of the various economy, more especially in
 a system, where instead of the regular movements
 of the, period and method is deranged
 associations have taken the sway.

No the power of the vol-
 untary has been more especially exhibited in the case
 of intermittent fever. I was first of numerous
 cases of power in that particular disease.

Dr Samuel Jackson, one of the celebrated physi-
 cians in the Methodist Hospital, says, "I have
 seen the management of some of our patients
 in the case of Intermitting fever, in need of use."

Case 1st Intermittent
 fever, of the tertian type of about 10 days.
 The patient was treated on Quinine most of the
 duration of which, his tongue lay down more
 in some very sickness of stomach. I thought the
 case was in the use of the Quinine.

[Faint handwritten notes, mostly illegible due to fading.]

I administered one scruple every five hours during the intermissions, and continued this course for six days but without the slightest advantage. The colics returned as vigorously as they had previously done, every other day, and with rather increasing violence.

Case 2nd. Intermitting fever of the putrid type. I first prescribed an Emetic, and after the complete evacuation of the contents of the stomach, I gave the Muc. Siccus, given every four hours and repeated during the intermissions. It persisted, in its use for near a week, yet still the paroxysms returned every day with their usual violence.

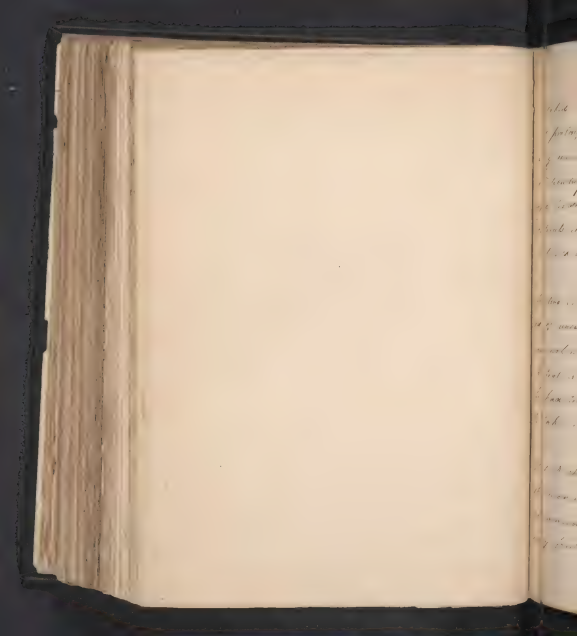
Case 3rd. Intermitting fever of the putrid type. The stomach was abundantly evacuated, the capacity evacuated of Muc. Siccus, given every four hours and repeated. I recommenced the use of the Emetic, in the same dose as in the preceding.



ing. I continued to use for ten days, but I am
at the Lecture to make the least impression upon
the disease.

In one of these cases I gave the rub in four
grain doses every hour, and I counteracted the
influence of the purgation, by administering the
quantity considerably, but still it proved ineffectual.
In the fourth. In each of these cases I paid particu-
lar attention to the pulse, and frequently inter-
rupted my patients in respect to their feelings. I
could however perceive little or no sensation in the
case, as was they sensible of any change of feel-
ing.

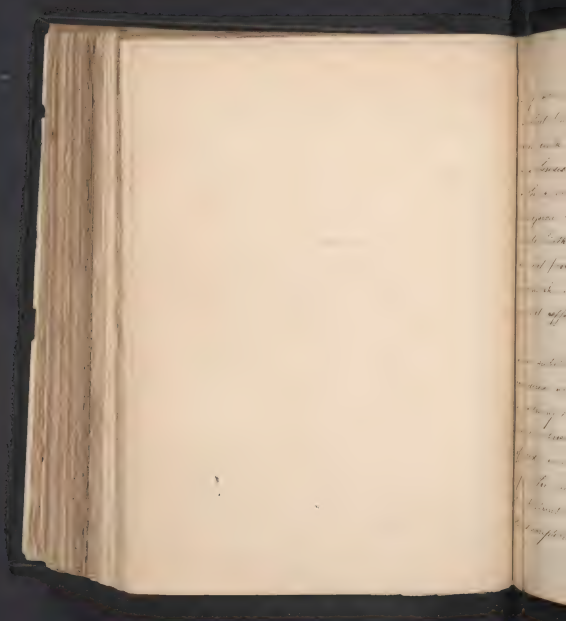
The collection is, spirits sparkling up, and
improvement of countenance, derived by
the Doctor Jackson, of present in my patients,
entirely checked my observation. The secretion of
the kidneys. I could not perceive to be either
increased or diminished. The surface was not more



which than usual, and the secondary stage was
not prolonged, in the probable third instance by
any means but some very copious, I was also
particularly attentive in watching it for any ap-
pearance of danger, but I could not discover that my
patients inclined to sleep, any more than other
patients in the same ward.

After the use of this medicine
for two or three days one of my patients complained
of uneasy sensations in the stomach, but this I
was inclined to suspect was only imaginary, as
I tried to permit open me to communicate to me, as
to have lost confidence in the medicine, and wished
to take something else.

It, perhaps may be thought strange,
but I should communicate with as large a dose of
the medicine, inasmuch, as the quantity usually
recommended does not ~~seem~~ ^{seem} to be doing
any good in fifth hour. But, as I have a previous



my action it myself to a considerable extent in a short time. I was confident in a vigorous recovery would be apprehended from the quantity given; and besides I was anxious if there was any action in the whole it was necessary to make such an impression on the system as to check the disease in its birth. That my later use of the medicine did not produce any new degree of action is shewn, inasmuch as the pulse was full & the patient was not affected.

As the act has been recommenced as a substitute for Opium, and has been continued as superior to that insupportable article, a return of the turbulence and irritability of the frame does not. The nervous system is much affected and a restoring tranquillity and sweet repose for restless and sleepless nights. I thought it important to try its power in some cases of this description. In the case in which I

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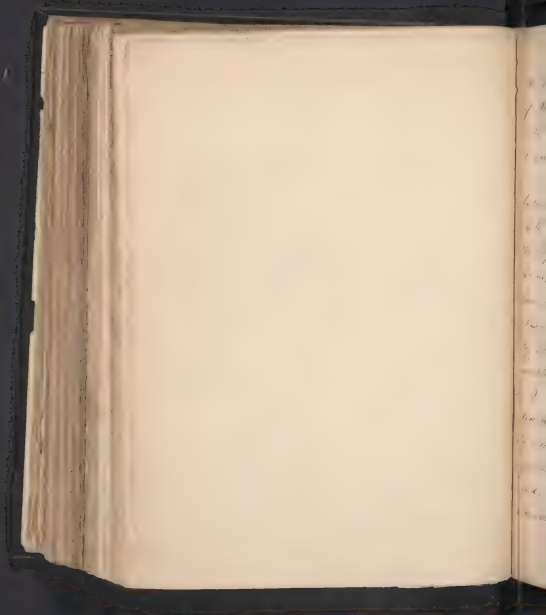
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died. It is now ten years, about 8 was returned
 to suppose might allow great relief from the redness
 the above was much. One of these patients
 was a middle aged man, a member of the
 Quaker Society, but who, from ^{an} acquaintance, gave a large
 of his various systems, could not sleep nor breathe
 the night. I gave him one forty grains of the salt
 as in the evening but in the morning I was very
 much, after supposing to find that he was not
 yet any rest. The subsequent night, the symptoms
 was repeated, though not in the same manner, yet
 not without the slightest advantage.

The other case, was a man of robust build,
 for a Quaker, and for 30 years, and was
 was affected with symptoms very analogous to the
 preceding case. I gave him a scruple of the
 salt at night, and this evening, as before, I was
 given the salt in the morning but was without
 all manner of change. He remains in the same



It may be supposed that the views
of Robertson, in which the grossness and
the effects, are completely and very soon after
it was rendered by a possession of the same

That friends

belonging under the same name have been
both under the use of the sub-stantive, but more of
the right character, has not improved the
same, but does it have any other? Then, but
has not been affected by any other? It is
the same in the article? It is the same, when
it is not a real. With a mind most susceptible
to the same, we have the same resemblance of his
I remember my arguments, which are con-
sidered with all possible fairness, were answered, and
the result of which was to give it a very
general sense of confidence at least on my
part. The idea of being a man to which
I was not but unwilling, will be found hardly to

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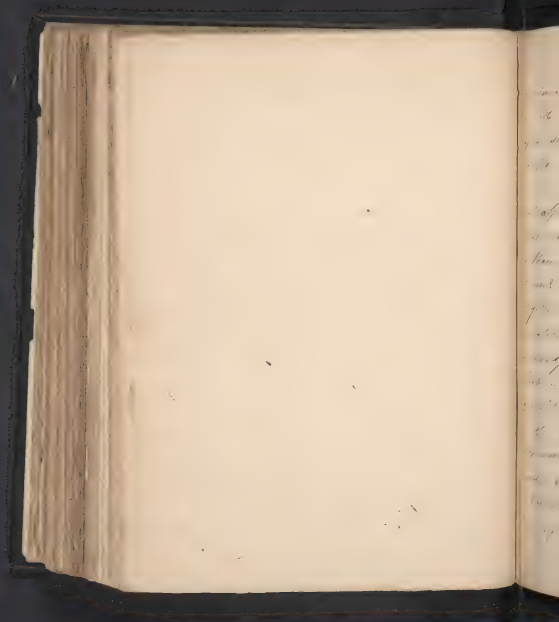
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full to arrest the fatal progress, even of a common
 intermittent fever. I was the author of such
 a man as the first and more experienced Doctor
 I ever met would be deemed the brother of an
 unwise Physician, or, at least, for a youth,
 who has never entered upon the duties of his profes-
 sion to represent the whole in this light. But,
 as we have remedies of known and tried powers,
 I must commend the man who pertinaciously
 persists in the use of this article, to the confusion
 of all others, to be sharing with his late and
 dear wife of his patients. Though Intermittent
 fever in itself is not generally consistent of any
 very serious import, yet, when neglected, or ill
 managed, it so far weakens and paralyzes the energy
 of the constitution, as to pour the way in the
 most insidious diseases. For instance, what physi-
 cian of ordinary experience has not found an
 inflammation in the lungs a Symplican pneumonia, or



[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

[illegible]



as a remedy in Intermittent, than the use of some species of insect; This is swallowed by the credulous sufferer an hour or perhaps a shorter period before the recurrence of the expected paroxysm, which it entirely prevents.

In the mind of every true and worthy physician there must be diffused a feeling of sympathy for the sufferings incident to the feeble constitution of our species, together with a correspondent zeal and determined resolution to call to his aid in combatting disease, in all its airy shapes and features, all the means and those only, to which the test of experience has given the stamp of utility. In the bosom of such ^{physician} there must exist a latent spark of genuine love, which must burst into a flame of ecstasy and joy, at the expulsion of an article, which has so long been imposed on the credulity of the profession.

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The first of these is the
fact that the world is
not a uniform whole
but a collection of
parts which are
not all of the same
kind or of the same
value. The second
fact is that the world
is not a static whole
but a dynamic whole
which is constantly
changing. The third
fact is that the world
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A
Dissertation

